

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Namibia: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA0004
GLIDE FL-2009-000062-NAM
24 March 2009

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,494,980 (USD 1.3m or EUR 979,849) in cash, kind, or services to support the, Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) to assist 4,000 households (20,000 people) for six month months.

CHF 146,695 (USD 124,473 OR EUR 99,224) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

The NRCS has requested international assistance to continue responding to the needs of families displaced by floods since the beginning of 2009. Heavy rains have led to severe water logging and localized flooding, displacing more than 276,000 people in six northern regions of the country. Over 90 people have drowned. It is anticipated that the current flood situation will be exacerbated by the additional flood waters flowing from southern Angola, requiring a multi-sectoral response as outlined in this emergency appeal.

The initial rapid assessments indicated that the displaced families are in vital dire need of immediate relief assistance in the form of shelter, food, clean water, sanitation facilities, health education and hygiene promotion. Generally, the basic social services such as trade and agriculture have been severely disrupted by water logging in all the affected regions. The NRCS is one of the few operational agencies working across the six flooded regions. Its volunteers and staff have been active in evacuations, assessments, distribution of relief items, erecting temporary shelter, conducting water chlorination, constructing family latrines, and carrying out hygiene promotion within the temporary camps.

The NRCS relief assistance plan of action is targeting 20,000 people for six months and is committed towards providing emergency relief, shelter, health, water and sanitation services to families in the temporary camps. The Federation's Southern Africa Zone and partner National Societies already on the ground have been assisting the NRCS in its lead role with logistics, coordination and technical support. The DREF support has enabled a kick-started to the relief activities, but longer-term funding support is needed to sustain the relief operation, as well as developing the NRCS's branch capacity and volunteer base.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 30 September 2009; a Final Report will be made available by November, 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal budget;](#)
[here to link to a map of the affected area; or here to view contact details>](#)



Flooded households in the Ohangwena region.

The situation

Namibia's northern regions, particularly Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto, are traversed by the Cuvelai basin. They have been experiencing incessant torrential rains and high water flows arising from Angola, causing severe water logging and localized flooding. Flooding has cut off access to many houses, while others are completely inundated. The flooding has caused extensive damage to the public infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Many were still being repaired from the 2008 flood damage. According to the joint assessment conducted by the government, the NRCS and other agencies, an estimated 276,000 people are affected. Omusati region alone has approximately 234,000 people affected. Over ninety deaths have been reported from drowning. A rapid assessment is underway in the Kavango and Caprivi regions, and the results are expected shortly.

People 'affected' by floods per region

Region	Total number of people affected per region	Names of constituencies affected per region
Oshikoto	8,219	Oniipa, Omuthiya, Omuntele, Onanyena, Olukonda,
Omusati	234,442	Tsandi, Ruacana, Anamulenge, Onesi, Okalongo, Etayi, Elim, Outapi, Ogongo, Otamanzi, Oshikuku
Oshana	29,593	Oshakati East and West, Uvuudhiya, Ompundja, Ondangwa, Okatjali, Okaku, Uukwiyuushona, Ongwediva.
Ohangwena	4,000	Oshikango, Endola, Ohangwena, Ongenga, Engela
Grand Totals:	276,254	

Source: *Interagency Report on the Assessment of the flood impact in Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati Regions; Office of the Prime Minister; Directorate of Emergency Management*



Photo: A flooded crop field

The rapid assessment report forecast a reduction of 63 percent on cereal crop production among 67 percent of households categorised as very poor in the four flooded regions. The majority of the people in the four regions rely on subsistence agriculture (mainly upland cereals and livestock farming) and income from wage labour, small scale enterprises such as retail trading, sale of cooked food stuff and sale of wild fruits and social security grants. Most of the livelihoods mechanisms have been severely affected. In addition, majority of rural households particularly in the uplands had limited access to food markets, which is attributed to the damage of open market infrastructure, loss of food stock and destruction of roads and bridges by floods waters.

The conditions for livestock were favourable at the start of the season due to timely and good pastures. However, livestock farmers presently fear disease outbreak endemic during the first quarter of the year and the fact that most pastures are still inundated.

According to the Ministry of Education, 253 schools have been affected with 159 completely closed, thus distracting learning for approximately 97,000 children. A number of health facilities have been closed mainly in Oshikoto region disrupting service delivery systems such as immunization, antiretroviral therapy, treatment of minor illnesses and check-up for chronic diseases patients. According to the local daily newspaper "New Era" the provision of antiretroviral drug to AIDS patients has been disrupted due to the inaccessibility to health facilities.

Kunene region, in the north-western part of the country, reported an outbreak of cholera in the Okanguati and Opuwo areas. Reports from the Ministry of Health revealed 143 suspected cholera cases, of which nine have been confirmed with seven related deaths last reported on 9 February 2009. The outbreak seems to have been brought under control, although the situation may escalate as the rains continue. A cholera outbreak is feared in all the affected regions as the sanitation situation is generally poor in rural areas.

The government has facilitated the establishment of temporary relocation camps where currently 11,890 people are temporarily sheltered; Ohangwena (861), Oshana (2,156), Oshikoto (8,213) and Omusati (660). The flooding situation is still unfolding and the number of people registering at the relocation camps is increasing on daily basis. The local authorities have therefore reported the need for additional emergency supplies such as tents, food and non-food items, water purification tablets, mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets and cooking facilities. Although heavily affected, most rural families are reluctant to relocate for fear of their property such as crop fields and livestock. For this reason the number of people accommodated in temporary camps in Ohangwena and Omusati are relatively lower compared to those in Oshana which is highly urbanised. This operation therefore seeks to cover the emergency needs and eventually resettlement and re-integration activities.

A related serious concern is the sewage systems that have burst into the main streams, posing a serious health hazard to the downstream communities that rely on these for potable water. The resulting health, water supply, and sanitation challenges are anticipated in the temporary camps. Toilets and bathroom facilities are inadequate to support the entire population. Access to clean water is still a challenge in most camps as some residents draw drinking water from flooded ponds near the sites.

There are collective concerns within the affected regions that the flooding will be worsened by water from the Cuvelai delta in Angola. The situation in Kavango and Caprivi is also threatening as the level of the Kavango River is at eight metres and the Zambezi River is at six metres, both above normal levels by 70 percent, according to the hydrology department.

Coordination and partnerships

The NRCS, supported by the Federation, is coordinating with partner National Societies in delivering assistance to the affected families. At national level, the Red Cross is represented at the national disaster management coordination body, that is under the Prime Minister's office. NRCS is also actively participating in the coordination meetings of the Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM).

The government has re-opened the Floods Emergency Management Coordination Office (FEMCO), led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing. The staff members of the Directorate of Emergency Management are part of FEMCO. The office has the overall responsibility to coordinate emergency activities in the four affected northern regions. Coordination meetings are held on weekly basis and attended by relevant stakeholders including the Red Cross.

As part of the government's intentions to effectively and efficiently respond to the floods emergency, a rapid interagency mission comprising officials from the government, UN and NRCS was undertaken from 2 – 9 March. The assessment team used both aerial and ground survey to selected priority areas identified by the regional officials as representative of the flood situation. The joint team assessed the flood impact and provided the necessary information for decision making and action. This appeal is therefore based on the findings of the vulnerabilities as revealed in the assessment report.

Partner National Societies have also contributed bilaterally to the NRCS operations, with the Belgium-Flanders Red Cross supporting the long-term water and sanitation programme which will directly benefit some of the affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The NRCS has been working to provide relief assistance to the affected people through close coordination with the local government and other stakeholders. The NRCS Secretary General and the Federation representative in Namibia have been on the ground to assess the situation and progress on branch level activities.

The robust response operation has covered evacuation, assessments and relief distribution (in Ohangwena region 66 blankets and 9 tarpaulins were distributed, and constructed 4 latrines; in Oshana region 28 tarpaulins and 76 blankets were distributed, and 90 mosquito nets). The NRCS used 24 boats (pre-positioned since 2008 floods) to evacuate people and move relief items in all the four regions. The Red Cross volunteers on the ground are assisting in evacuations and providing relief assistance to the affected families. A total of 11 volunteers involved in the evacuations have been trained on how to use and maintain the boats in Ohangwena and Omusati regions.

Pit latrines and bathing shelters by NRCS

Region	Relocation Camp	Pit latrines constructed	Bathing Shelters
Ohangwena	Oshikango Camp	6	4
Oshikoto	Omungwelume Camp	2	2
Omusati	Etunda Camp	6	8
Oshana	Ekuku Camp	12	10

The Red Cross regional branch in Kunene has been working together with the Ministry of Health to help contain the cholera outbreak. Volunteers involved in hygiene promotion in the villages have distributed 3,000 water purification tablets. Work has started on the construction of 50 family latrines and some bathing shelters in the affected villages (see table).

In general, the Red Cross presence at community level has ensured timely relief assistance to the affected and vulnerable people. The interventions carried out so far have a far-reaching impact in alleviating the plight of the affected communities since most of the displaced families have been provided with temporary shelter and other basic relief items.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: This Emergency Appeal targets 4,000 flood affected households (20,000 people) in the six affected regions.

Immediate needs: The findings are derived from the NRCS joint assessment.

- **Food:** There is an insufficient supply of food at the camps due to the inundated reserves and loss of livestock.
- **Shelter and non-food relief items:** With many houses severely damaged and some totally destroyed, temporary shelter needs are substantial. Relief needs include mosquito nets, blankets, tarpaulin, plastic sheeting.
- **Health:** Local health facilities have suffered substantial damage while others are inaccessible. There are concerns that the affected community may be vulnerable to vector and water-borne diseases such as malaria and cholera respectively. The displaced people are therefore in need of emergency health services and alternative sources of drugs and surveillance of chronic patients. Clean water, sanitation, treatment and hygiene kits have also been listed as critical needs for the affected communities.

Longer-term needs: Longer-term needs will focus on the restoration of livelihoods and reinforcement of coping mechanism since the floods have inundated thousands hectares of farm land and pastures. In the event of similar flooding situation in 2009/10 agricultural season, the Ministry of Agriculture predicts that there will be a severe effect on the 67 percent very poor and poor households in the four northern central regions. Loss of livestock and depleted food stocks due to the 2007/08 floods implies that the population is less resilient to the current water logging and floods. The majority of the households will only be able to cope through an increased purchase of staple cereals using income from social security, remittances and livestock sales. However, this will come at a very high opportunity costs such as failure to access basic social services and purchase of agricultural inputs, livestock and other productive assets among others.

The proposed operation

Overall Goal: Approximately 4,000 flood-affected families (20,000 people) in Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Kavango and Caprivi regions have received timely and holistic humanitarian assistance from NRCS.

NRCS relief assistance is well aligned to two of the IFRC Global Agenda¹'s goals 'to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters' and 'increasing local community, civil society and Red Cross and Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability'. The main components of the operation are the provision of food, relief items, clean water, sanitation facilities, emergency health services and promoting hygiene.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Objective: 4,000 flood affected households are provided with appropriate non-food relief items.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items are distributed to 4,000 households in six regions for a period of six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango and Caprivi regions. • Distributing 8,000 blankets, 4,000 mosquito nets, 48,000 bars of soap and 2,000 hygiene kits- to the relocated school kids and lactating mothers. • Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and providing reporting on relief distributions on monthly basis.

Shelter	
Objective: (0 to 6 months): 4,000 most vulnerable flood-affected families displaced in Namibia receive appropriate emergency shelter (family tents or shelter kits) to help preserve their physical and mental well-being, human dignity and prevent the further deterioration of the human situation.	
Expected results	Activities planned
1,000 families are safely sheltered in family tents and 3,000 families receive shelter kits ² .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and distribution of 1,000 family tents. • Transportation and distribution of 3,000 shelter kits. • Emergency shelter training provided to National Society staff and volunteers. • Monitoring activities through field visits.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 4,000 families in Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, Kavango, Kunene and Caprivi regions.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 4,000 families displaced by floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing 600,000 water purification powder sachets. • Distributing household level water storage facilities (i.e. jerry cans) to 4,000 households.
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to 4,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting with construction of 100 temporary latrines. • Assisting with construction of 100 temporary bathing shelters. • Assisting with vector control and prevention measures. • Assisting in waste disposal measures.
The health status of the population is improved through hygiene promotion activities and behaviour change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 150 community-based volunteers on hygiene promotion. • Conducting hygiene education and health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting a total of 4,000 households in the affected regions. • Providing information, education and communication (IEC) material on hygiene promotion (printed materials (posters, flyers, etc), manuals, educational materials, etc).

¹ <http://www.ifrc.org/who/fof.asp#globalagenda>

² One **shelter kit** is composed of: two tarpaulins, rope, hand saw, roofing nails, shovel, hoe, machete, tin snips, nails tie wire and hammer. Each "shelter kit" should be complemented by local framing materials, should vulnerable households need them. The use of shelter kits will support the early recovery process.

Emergency health and care

Objective: To reduce health risks, morbidity and mortality as a result of the emergency on the affected population through the provision of health promotion, preventive, community-level and primary health care (PHC) services to 4,000 households in (geographic areas) for six months.

Expected results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity as a result of the emergency are reduced in target population and health services are supported through a primary health care oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing 20 volunteer modules of the cholera kits towards community-based activities at affected communities under the Ministry of Health (MoH). • Mitigate the effects of cholera by developing the capacity of provincial Red Cross Offices in active case finding correct preparation, use and distribution of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and in surveillance. • Supporting the Government organized mass vaccination campaign through social mobilisation activities and or independent monitoring in coordination with MoH/WHO/UNICEF. • Pre-positioning additional supplies such as cholera kits and ORS sachets as a contingency stock for up to 10,000 persons. • Training volunteers in target branches on community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA) and on Epidemic Control for Volunteers training package with emphasis on malaria and water-borne illnesses.
The scope and quality of the NS involved in health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 150 community-based volunteers on health promotion. • Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting 4,000 households in affected areas. • Distributing IEC materials for health education and hygiene promotion campaign (such as posters, flyers). • Supporting Reproductive Health (RH) and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) activities including protection of women, girls and children. • Training 50 volunteers on emergency health within the next six months.

Logistics

Objective: To support the relief operations, delivering a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities.

Expected results	Activities planned
The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief goods; reception of all incoming goods; warehousing, centralized provision of standard vehicles as required; and coordinated and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procuring and dispatching relief supplies and controlling supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Providing technical support in logistics, warehousing, and distribution and controlling supply movements. • Establishing appropriate warehouses and arranging transportation to distribution points.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The NRCS head office will maintain close collaboration with its branches and other agencies in order to promote reliable and consistent communications. The steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of the emergency operation. Equally, communication is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Quality and accountability issues will generally be addressed through the appropriate monitoring system.

In support of the NRCS emergency operation, the Federation's Southern Africa Zone Office has already dispatched a communications team, which includes a professional cameraman, to the affected region. The focus of the team is to provide high quality footage, photographs and content for distribution to national, regional and international media. With the support of the Federation's Secretariat communications department in Geneva, the Southern African Zone office will continue with proactive engagement of the media, and subsequently donors and the general public.

High visibility of the operation will be maintained through local media, web stories and press releases. Updates on Red Cross action will be regularly shared through the Federation's Southern Africa Zone Office. Red Cross logo will be displayed at distribution sites and Red Cross regalia worn by volunteers in action. Adequate visibility for donors will be taken into consideration. Photographs highlighting donor contributions will be taken and shared throughout the relief operation.

Capacity of the National Society

The NRCS has a well established capacity in emergency preparedness and response, considering the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, particularly in the northern parts of the country. Currently, the National Society is utilizing its trained Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members to conduct assessments, coordinate distribution of relief items. An additional RDRT trained staff is needed in the field as the current capacity is highly overstretched.

Trained volunteers have been mobilised and are actively involved in the delivery of relief assistance. As a result of the build-up in human and resource capacities following previous relief operations, the NRCS is enhancing effective inter-dependence among its branches. The pre-positioned emergency stocks have been moved to the affected areas. The relief items that are locally available are being procured while others are being procured at the Zone level.

Although the NRCS has been quick to mobilise staff and volunteers to the flooded areas, they are facing acute limitations in financial, logistics, communication and technical resources. The National Society will also need short-term support in the area of communication and reporting. Without the support of the Federation, Partner National Societies and their back donors, the NRCS would face great difficulty in delivering its full service plan to the communities made vulnerable by the floods.

Capacity of the Federation

The prompt response to the floods by the Federation's Southern Africa Zone office is a direct result of the support and presence in Namibia of a country representative. The Federation's capacity is further strengthened by a Movement Coordination Mechanism established at the zone level to support NRCS for this specific purpose. The Federation's Zone office is well positioned to provide back-up through deployment of additional technical human resource, upon request of the National Society.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be part of this emergency operation in order to achieve greater quality, accountability and transparency, and as part of wider improvement to programme management. From the proposed plan of action, monitoring tools will be developed in line with branch level capacities. Financial management will be key in monitoring flow and utilisation of donations. NRCS headquarters will deploy monitoring and evaluation teams and technical personnel based in the field to assist in implementation. Weekly situational updates and monthly reports will be shared among the stakeholders and through the Federation's website (www.ifrc.org).

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Birgitte Olsen
Deputy Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Namibia:** Dorkas Kepembe-Haiduwa; Secretary General, Email secgen@redcross.org.na; Phone: Tel: +264.61.235.216; Fax: 264.61.228.949
- **In Namibia:** Getachew Ta'a; Federation Representative; Email: getachew.taa@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: 264 811 229 838 Tel: +264 61 235 228; Fax: +264.263.286
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email : françoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Disaster Management Department: Farid Aiywar; Email farid.aiywar@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: john.roche@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95

For Pledges towards this floods operation:

- In **Southern Africa Zone:** Laurean Rugambwa; Resource Mobilisation Coordinator, Email zonerm.southafrica@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Media enquiries:

- In **Southern Africa Zone:** Matthew Cochrane; Communication Coordinator, Email matthew.cochrane@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.395.5266; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) enquiries:

- In **Southern Africa Zone:** Theresa Takavarasha; PMER Manager, Email terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.413.3061; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Namibia Floods

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	439,454
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	57,580
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	275,089
Medical & First Aid	24,000
Teaching Materials	7,692
Utensils & Tools	145,240
Other Supplies & Services	54,855

Total Relief Needs 1,003,910

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	17,250
Distribution & Monitoring	85,250
Transport & Vehicles Costs	130,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	13,200
National Staff	
National Society Staff	45,846
Consultants	0

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	8,000
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	17,500
Information & Public Relations	13,000
Office running costs	600
Communication Costs	3,120
Professional Fees	0
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	60,130

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	97,174
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Total Operational Needs 491,070

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 1,494,980

Available Ressources

Net Request 1,494,980

